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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9389
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 2446
RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA IMMEDIATE 0017
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE 9803
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0092
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9390
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0016
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 001576

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: SAUDIS STILL NOT READY TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO

REF: SESTATE 111313

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission David Rundell
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Per reftel, Ambassador Fraker raised the issue of Saudi recognition of Kosovo in an October 18 meeting with Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal. In light of the UAE's recent decision to recognize Kosovo, the Ambassador conveyed USG hope that Saudi Arabia was now prepared to follow suit. Prince Saud explained that, in view of Russian concerns, the SAG had judged it wise to delay its recognition of Kosovo until all the European countries had done so. "Now that we have reached that stage," he said, "there is no reason not to recognize Kosovo." However, the Saudis wanted to avoid taking action that would leave the Russians feeling isolated or provoke Russian retaliation in another arena. "Russia is in a strange mood," he worried, "and we think this is dangerous." Until present, most Muslim countries had not yet acted, and without saying so, Saud implied that the SAG would likely wait for more political cover from fellow Arab and Muslim countries before acting.
FRAKER